Appendix table 7-14

Correct answers to scientific process questions, by respondent characteristic: 2010

(Percent)

Characteristic	Scientific inquiry	Probability	Experiment	Scientific study
All adults (*n* = 1,454)	42	66	51	18
Sex				
Male (*n* = 597)	44	68	51	18
Female (*n* = 857)	41	64	51	17
Formal education[a]				
<High school (*n* = 195)	13	48	19	1
High school graduate (*n* = 476)	28	57	40	5
Some college (*n* = 349)	49	69	57	23
Baccalaureate (*n* = 266)	65	82	69	36
Graduate/professional degree (*n* = 167)	73	82	82	39
Science/mathematics education[b]				
Low (*n* = 695)	29	59	40	6
Middle (*n* = 272)	56	71	64	27
High (*n* = 321)	71	85	76	41
Family income (quartile)[a]				
Top (*n* = 258)	62	77	68	31
Second (*n* = 352)	51	73	59	20
Third (*n* = 308)	36	67	47	15
Bottom (*n* = 398)	27	53	34	12
Age (years)[a]				
18–24 (*n* = 87)	40	64	50	26
25–34 (*n* = 298)	52	73	61	21
35–44 (*n* = 256)	45	63	55	21
45–54 (*n* = 264)	43	63	48	16
55–64 (*n* = 256)	42	68	50	18
≥65 (*n* = 285)	29	62	37	5
Verbal ability[c]				
0–4 (*n* = 53)	16	46	27	1
5 (*n* = 39)	37	70	41	13
6 (*n* = 62)	54	77	60	20
7 (*n* = 35)	47	73	57	22
8–10 (*n* = 62)	65	85	69	38
Trend factual knowledge of science scale (quartile)[d]				
Top (*n* = 375)	72	86	77	41
Second (*n* = 406)	49	72	59	19
Third (*n* = 370)	28	62	38	6
Bottom (*n* = 303)	14	38	24	2

[a]Categories do not add to total *n* because "don't know" and "refused" responses not shown.

[b]Low = ≤5 high school and college science/math courses; middle = 6–8 courses; high = ≥9 courses. Categories do not add to total because "don't know" and "refused" responses not shown.

[c]Measure based on correct responses to a 10-item, multiple-choice test of vocabulary knowledge. Categories represent number of correct responses. Verbal ability questions asked of 251 survey respondents.

[d]Quartiles based on percentage of nine questions in trend factual knowledge of science scale answered correctly. See notes to appendix table 7-8 for questions.

NOTES: See footnotes to appendix table 7-13 for explanation of understanding of probability, experiment, scientific inquiry, and scientific study. "Don't know" responses and refusals to respond count as incorrect.

SOURCE: University of Chicago, National Opinion Research Center, General Social Survey (2010).

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